



THE MAINE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
One Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME 04105

Board of Directors
April 10, 2026
Minutes

- 5:41pm I. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Members**
Present: Tommy Minch, Anna Perna, Roxanne Baker, Lisette Belanger, Jason Bubier, Claire Jeffers, Janet May, Dawna Thorpe, Sandra Wood
Excused: Beth Campbell, Mike Pulsifer
Also Present: Steve Connolly, Kim Matthews-Hermans, Cathy Lushman, Lori Levesque, Dean Flanagin, Kim Spencer, David Hillier, Grace Cooney, Margaret Haberman, Amy Richardson, Davin Searls, Cathy Glover, Taylor Markie, Josh Gray
- 5:43pm II. **Adjustments to the Agenda**
Agenda approved with the addition of the resignation of Donna Casvant to Article VIII.
Lisette **motioned**; Dawna **seconded**
9 in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained
- 5:44pm III. **Motion to Approve the March 5, 2026 Board Minutes**
Claire **motioned**; Roxanne **seconded**
9 in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained
- 5:45pm IV. **Public Comments**
No public comments
- 5:46pm V. **Host DEP** Steve Connolly, *Executive Director*
- York Middle and Brewer programs closing; Portland (Lyman Moore) host program ending
 - Lewiston (Farwell Elementary, Middle, High School) becomes the single consolidated host site
 - Most students (~97%) served statewide through home district outreach
 - National TOD shortage is the driving constraint (neighboring ASD is down 9 TODs)
 - Programs require a minimum staffing threshold regardless of student count
 - Steppingstones program, Bridges Program, and USM graduate school outreach underway to recruit future TODs
 - Virtual/remote direct instruction (DBLAs) expanding to reduce travel burden
 - Letters going to staff, families, and schools about consolidation
 - Full policy/vision discussion deferred to Board retreat
- 6:36pm VI. **Facilities Report/Capital Updates** Dean Flanagin, *Director of Operations*
- Audit progress ongoing with RKO; expected completion May or June
 - Frozen pipe damage (Greenlaw rooms 110 & 107) repaired; access panels added to walls
 - \$80,000 FEMA grant awarded for storm damage; payment expected soon
 - Roof replacement estimate: ~\$190,000; detailed estimate pending
 - Split rail fence removed from gateway area; sign now clearly visible
 - Outstanding punch list items being addressed (grout work, new grass coming)
 - Mansion steps in poor condition; quote requested from Noles Industrial
 - Red patio tiles uneven due to frost heave; repair plan includes removing tiles, improving base
 - Replacing existing playground equipment with age-appropriate pieces for preschool-aged children
 - Coordinating with BGS on removal; site plan to be presented to town



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- Siemens conducting energy audit; targets include inefficient boiler, controls, and lighting upgrades
- Aging underground oil tank is a concern; double-wall containment and alarm system in place

6:55pm VII. Policies - 2nd Read

- AC/Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity And Affirmative Action
- ACAA/Harassment And Sexual Harassment Of Students
- ACAB/Harassment And Sexual Harassment Of School Employees
- ADC/Tobacco-Free Schools: Use And Possession Of Tobacco And Electronic Smoking Devices
- ADC-R/Tobacco Use And Possession – Administrative Procedure
- ADC/Tobacco-Free Schools: Use And Possession Of Tobacco And Electronic Smoking Devices
- ADF/School District Commitment To Learning Results
- BBAB/School Board Self-Evaluation

All policies passed as written.

Roxanne **motioned**; Sandra **seconded**
9 in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained

New Business

7:00pm VIII. Staff Resignations

Joshua Gray, effective June 30, 2026
Claire **motioned**; Lisette **seconded**
9 in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained

Donna Casavant, effective May 15, 2026
Tommy **motioned**; Sandra **seconded**
7 in favor. 0 opposed. 2 abstained

7:05pm IX. Motion to Approve the 2026-27 Academic-year Calendar

Jason **motioned**; Anna **seconded**
9 in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained

7:05pm X. Announcements

7:09pm XI. Adjournment

To **Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 5:30.**
Dawna **motioned**; Roxanne **seconded**
9 in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained